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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

27 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Release of NIE 36.2-56, "The Outlook for Iraq's Stability and Foreign Policies," to Certain Foreign Governments

1. The Board of National Estimates has reviewed NIE 36.2-56 with a view to its release to certain foreign governments, and regards the following considerations as pertinent:

a. Precedent. There is no direct precedent since this is the first NIE dealing exclusively with Iraq. However, in the past few years other more general Middle Eastern estimates, which also incorporated some material on Iraq (e. g., NIE 30-55, NIE 30-4-55, NIE 30-54, NIE 36-54), were not released to any foreign governments.

[REDACTED] 25X1C

c. Classification and Sources. Although this estimate does not compromise CIA intelligence sources, various portions of the estimate reflect a wide variety of NOFORN CIA reports, particularly with respect [REDACTED]

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The Board is not in a position to determine whether release would involve a compromise of intelligence sources or NOFORN materials for which other agencies are primarily responsible.

SECRET

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d. Substantive. The Board notes that various parts of the estimate appear to contain potentially sensitive material, including statements bearing on: (1) the outlook for [REDACTED] 25X1C in Iraq (paras. 25-27 of 13 July draft); (2) Iraq's relations with the West and its position vis-a-vis the Baghdad Pact (paras. 19-29 of the 13 July draft), which material involves 25X1C [REDACTED] directly and touches at least obliquely on matters relevant to US attitudes toward and possible adherence to the Pact; and (3) Iraq intentions and capabilities with respect to Jordan and Syria (paras. 32-35 of the 13 July draft). In the opinion of the Board, deletion of all or a considerable portion of the above data would substantially affect the substance of the paper.

2. Conclusion. On the basis of the above considerations, particularly the extent of potentially sensitive material, which would make sanitization difficult, and US policy with respect to the Baghdad Pact, the Board recommends that NIE 36.2-56 not be released to any foreign government.

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National Estimates

Distribution "A"

- 2 -

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